

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00
ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00
FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04
TRSE-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 PA-01 PRS-01 /145 W
-----181649Z 080089 /65

R 181418Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7087
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG PFOR KU
SUBJECT: KUWAITI CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER OPEC MEMBERS ON
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

REF: KUWAIT 0291

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT QATAR MINISTER OF OIL, SHEIKH ABDULAZIZ BIN KHALIFAH AL THANI, HAS MET WITH GOK OFFICIALS, INCLUDING ACTING AMIR AND CROWN PRINCE SHEIKH JABER AL-AHMAD, AND GOK MINISTER OF OIL ABDULMUTALLEB AL-KAZEMI. TALKS REPORTEDLY CENTERED ON OIL MATTERS, PARTICULARLY ON TWO-TIER PRICING SYSTEM ESTABLISHED AT DOHA OPEC MEETING. NO FURTHER DETAILS WERE GIVEN, BUT QATARI OIL MINISTER DID STATE THAT THERE EXISTED A UNITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN GOK AND GOQ ON THE MATTER.

2. ACCORDING TO AL-WATAN, GOK MINISTER ALSO STATED THAT "THE DUAL PRICING SYSTEM IS NO GREAT PROBLEM, BUT WE ARE WORKING TOWARDS UNIFORM PRICES". ACCORDING TO AL-SIYASSA, MINISTER ALSO STATED THAT, WHILE HE SAW NO REASON TO HOLD AN EXTRAORDINARY OPEC MEETING BEFORE CONTACTING ALL PARTIES, HE DID EMPHASIZE THAT OPEC STATES SHOULD REALIGN THEIR PRICE POLICIES TO PRESERVE THE UNITY OF THE ORGANIZATION. AL-WATAN REPORTS "INFORMED SOURCES" AS SAYING THAT KUWAIT WOULD "MEDIATE" BETWEEN QATAR AND SAUDI ARABIA ON THE OIL PRICE QUESTION, FOR WHICH PURPOSE GOK REPS WOULD SOON VISIT RIYADH. ALL INDICATIONS, THESE SOURCES CONTINUED, WERE THAT THE MEDIATION WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL.

3. GOQ OIL MINISTER IS CURRENTLY ON A TOUR OF OIL STATES, AND HAS LEFT KUWAIT FOR IRAQ, IRAN, UAE, AND SAUDI ARABIA.

4. IN A SEPARATE BUT PERHAPS RELATED DEVELOPMENT, AL-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIYASSA REPORTED THE VISIT OF SAUDI OIL MINISTRY UNDER-SECRETARY ABDULAZIA AL-TURKI, WHO REPORTEDLY WOULD BE MEETING WITH THE KUWAITI MINISTER OF FINANCE ON THE SUBJECT OF KUWAIT-SAUDI ARABIA NEUTRAL ZONE OIL PRICING AND SALES.

5. COMMENT: ABOVE IS ANOTHER REPORT OF COMING AND GOINGS OF ARAB OPEC OIL PERSONALITIES AND ANOTHER INDICATION OF GROWING GULF CONCERN OVER THE UNFAVORABLE EFFECTS OF THE TWO - TIER OIL PRICE SYSTEM. MOREOVER, IN KUWAIT MORE COMMENT BY PROMINENT PERSONALITIES IS BEING HEARD ABOUT THE "MISTAKE" MADE BY KUWAIT IN HELPING TO ARRANGE THE 10-15 PERCENT PRICE INCREASE AT THE DOHA OPEC MEETING AND THE CONSEQUENT POTENTIAL EFFECT ON OIL MINISTER AL KAZEMI'S POSITION IN THE GOVERNMENT. MAESTRONE

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